

C. **Remarks**

In response to the Office Action mailed September 25, 2003, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments above and the following remarks.

To expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-16 and 23-26 without prejudice. With the cancellation of claims 1-16 and 23-26, claims 17-22 are currently pending. Applicants note that page 3 of the September 25, 2003 Office Action acknowledges that “claims 17-22 are allowable over prior art.”

The Applicants note that, in the status section on the Office Action Summary page of the September 25, 2003 Office Action, the Office Action is indicated to be both a final Office Action and a non-final Office Action. The Applicants respectfully assert that since the Office Action is a first Office Action the September 25, 2003 Office Action should be a non-final Office Action, and if the Office Action was intentionally characterized as a final Office Action, Applicants respectfully request removal of finality of the Office Action.

Comment on claim 26

The first paragraph on page 2 of the September 25, 2003 Office Action indicates that in the last line of claim 26, a period is missing. In light of the cancellation of claim 26, Applicants respectfully assert that this comment has been addressed.

Drawings

The September 25, 2003 Office Action indicates that Figures 1-3 should be designated by a legend such as –Prior Art--. In response, the Applicants submit the attached corrected drawings, i.e., replacement sheets including Figures 1-3, with the legend –Prior Art—inserted. In light of the corrected drawings, the Applicants respectfully assert that the objection to the drawings is traversed.

Rejection of claims 1-16 and 23-26 under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1-16 and 23-26 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Cilluffo (U.S. Patent No. 6,078,160). Applicants have cancelled claims 1-16 and 23-26 without prejudice. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that this rejection is traversed.

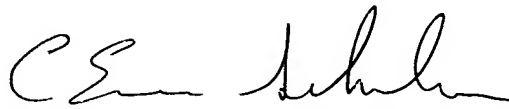
Conclusion

The Applicant believes that this application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of the application.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment and/or these remarks, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 03524-512.

Respectfully submitted,



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